

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01734 292114Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 TRSE-00 L-03 SS-15  
/033 W

-----292126Z 064196 /62

P 292026Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0009

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1734

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PA  
SUBJ: GOP DECISION ON INVITATION TO IAHC

1. I APPRECIATE ZIMMERMANN/GRAHAM EFFORTS TO IMPRESS ON PARAGUAYAN CHARGE THE URGENT NEED FOR GOP TO DECIDE ON IAHC VISIT. I STRESSED THIS POINT REPEATEDLY AND WITH GREAT VEHEMENCE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, TO PAPPALARDO, AND TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY ABDO BENITEZ. HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT UP TO THE EVENING OF APRIL 28 THERE HAD BEEN NO INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC FROM THE PARAGUAYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. I UNDERSTAND THAT LATE ON APRIL 28 CHARGE LLANES DID CALL FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES BUT FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD SO FAR, I FEAR THAT HE DID NOT GIVE IT THE EMPHASIS REQUIRED.

2. AMBASSADOR MARIO LOPEZ ESCOBAR TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE MADE HIS FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT STROESSNER EARLY ON APRIL 28 HE RAISED THIS SUBJECT. THE PRESIDENT ASKED HIM IF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAD TALKED TO HIM ABOUT IT. WHEN LOPEZ ESCOBAR REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT WHILE THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR MEANT WELL, HE WAS AN "ALARMIST" AND IMPLIED THAT HE HAD SOME DOUBTS AS TO THE URGENCY OF THIS VISIT. FOR-

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TUNATELY, SHORTLY THEREAFTER MINISTER OF EDUCATION PENA RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LEADER GRANTEE RAMIREZ RUSSO FROM WASHINGTON STRESSING THE NEED FOR SPEEDY ACTION. RUSSO'S LETTER WAS CIRCULATED AMONG GOP LEADERS APRIL 28.

3. I INFORMED THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE DEPART-

MENT HAD RECEIVED A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT PARAGAY'S POSITION ON THE IAHRC INVITATION. I WARNED THE MINISTER THAT UNLESS AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY IS RECEIVED, WE COULD EXPECT UNFAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH ARE CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN SECTION 502B OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH I HAD GIVEN TO HIM ON APRIL 9.

4. THE NEW AMBASSADOR, MARIO LOPEZ ESCOBAR, WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 6, IS FULLY BRIEFED ON THE SITUATION AND I EXPECT THAT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HIS EMBASSY'S PERFORMANCE IN KEEPING THE GOP ACCURATELY ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS WILL IMPROVE MARKEDLY.  
LANDAU

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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